

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY,
INDIANA HELD A MEETING IN THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING
ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006.**

The meeting of the **New Albany City Council** was called to order by President Jeff Gahan at 7:30 p.m. The meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Price, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Kochert, Mrs. Crump, Mr. Blevins, Mr. Messer, Mr. Seabrook, and President Jeff Gahan.

OTHERS: Council Attorney Jerry Ulrich and City Clerk Marcey Wisman.

ALSO: John Rosenbarger, Planning and Zoning, Brian Dixon, EMC, Paul Wheatley, Economic Development Director, and Mayor James E. Garner, Sr.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

Mr. Price moved to approve public hearing and regular meeting minutes of the November 8 meeting, Mr. Messer second, all voted in favor except Mrs. Crump who abstained.

Mr. Messer moved to approve the minutes of the November 16 meeting, Mr. Seabrook second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Seabrook made a motion to move the CF-1's forward on the agenda, Mrs. Crump second, all voted in favor

APPROVAL OF CF-1 FORMS:

Riteway Industries, Inc., Compliance with Statement
Of Benefits, Referencing R-04-11

Mrs. Crump moved to approve, Mr. Seabrook second, all voted in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC:

Freda Maseo, CWA worker, spoke regarding her job as a dispatcher and called it a vital link to the police, fire and ambulance and stated that they deserve a raise.

Dustin Baer, CWA worker, spoke regarding the difficult calls that they take for their jobs and how mentally and physically hard it is. He stated that he doesn't do the job to get rich but because he loves it and is asking that they be compensated justly for the work that they do.

Laura Littlefield, CWA worker, spoke regarding her experiences working as a dispatcher in other places compared to New Albany. She stated that they are not asking to be millionaires they just want to survive. She would like their income to match the amount of work that they do.

Shirley Baird, W. 6th Street, spoke in support of the CWA dispatcher's receiving a raise and told of the numerous occasions she and her family have had to call 911 and the dispatchers gave them immediate and professional service and she believes they deserve a raise.

COMMUNICATIONS – CITY OFFICIALS:

Mrs. Crump stated that she was honored tonight to be a part of the Caesar's Foundation that handed out grant money for the fall session and that they handed out over \$300,000 in grant money to community efforts.

Mr. Price asked Mr. Rosenbarger if New Directions is going to put money into the property at 525 E. Market Street.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that he talked with Mr. Hartman today and he told him that he believed the house was in a condition to be saved.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the needs of this house and how much money the city would give New Direction per unit.

Mr. Price asked if it is proper to give money to New Directions if mismanagement is suspected.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that he would talk with Danny Flanagan. He addressed the issue of the TIF area involved in the Daisy Lane project and he stated that he would have a more definitive answer at the next meeting.

Mr. Coffey addressed whether or not some of the TIF areas should be rescinded after the project that they were set up for has been paid off. He believes it hurts our tax base and that some of the TIF's are over and above what it cost to pay the bonds off.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that the City Council had already approved the economic development plans for State Street area and that the Redevelopment Commission is the body in place to implement that plan.

Mr. Coffey stated that he wasn't addressing the State Street TIF but the ones that already have enough money to pay off their bonds.

Mr. Rosenbarger explained that the Council would have to look at resending what they have done. He stated that you have to have the cash to pay the bonds off and asked which bonds Mr. Coffey was referring to.

Mr. Coffey said that Mr. Schmidt has a list of the TIF areas that the money has come in to pay bonds off, and that he is also aware that they will go in and borrow the money for some other project that the money was not meant for and it is costing the tax payers money. He stated that there comes a point and time where these have to be paid off.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that Mr. Coffey was incorrect in his evaluation. He explained that the Redevelopment Commission is a public process that is involved with the Council and the TIF's are being implemented according to plan.

Mr. Coffey explained that he was only disputing the fact that Mr. Rosenbarger has told them that once the work is done in these areas and the money is brought in on the bonds that the TIF is closed. He then asked Mr. Rosenbarger if he had closed one TIF area yet.

Mr. Rosenbarger said no

Mr. Coffey asked if they had the money in any bonds to pay any TIF area off.

Mr. Rosenbarger addressed the State St. TIF, explaining that it consist of two projects. The first project is Daisy Lane and it would take a 10-15 year bond finance to underwrite it. The second is State to Downtown and as it looks now there will be no money left.

Mr. Coffey explained that he is not asking about the State Street project but other TIF areas where the work has been done and the money has been collected. He stated that the funds are being used for projects that they were not meant to fund and there comes a point where they need to get the funds back into the inner city.

Mr. Gahan interjected and said that unless Mr. Coffey had a specific TIF area that they needed to move on.

COMMUNICATIONS – MAYOR:

Mayor Garner stated that the house at 525 E. Market is structurally sound but that it does need a lot of work on the exterior.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding New Direction and the money that city gives them for rehabbing houses.

Mr. Gahan asked for his opinion of R-06-44.

Mayor Garner stated to pass it.

Mr. Blevins asked Mayor Garner if the resolution was passed would it be for raises.

Mayor Garner explained that if the resolution was passed it would go to the County Commissioners and the County Commissioners would change it to read one year at \$130,000 for raises.

Mr. Messer asked if it is done this year for raises and they go back next year for the same amount that is isn't guaranteed.

Mayor Garner said that is correct.

APPOINTMENTS:

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

R-06-44 A Resolution of the Common Council of the City
 Of New Albany requesting an appropriation from
 The accumulated fund of the 9-1-1 Assessment

Mrs. Crump moved for the reading of R-06-44 in full, Mr. Coffey second, all voted in favor.

Mr. Coffey informed the council that if this is passed there will be a resolution going before the County Commissioners tomorrow for the money.

A-06-20 An Ordinance Setting Salaries for the Year 2007
 For Elected Officials

Mr. Messer moved for the first reading of A-06-20 by title only, Mr. Seabrook second, the bill was not passed with six nay votes from Mr. Coffey, Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Price, Mr. Blevins, Mr. Messer, and Mr. Gahan, two votes of aye from Mr. Kochert and Mrs. Crump, and one abstention from Mr. Seabrook.

Mr. Schmidt stated that he would like to amend it so that the council does not receive a raise. He stated that he wouldn't have a problem passing the ordinance if the council wasn't getting a raise and if it couldn't be amended then he would have to vote no.

Mr. Kochert stated that he would like to know what purpose that would serve. He said that he has seen the council give up four raises and wants to know where the improvement is. He said he would give up his raise but he would expect everyone to do the same.

Mr. Price stated that he would have a hard time voting for the ordinance because this past year has been very hard on the tax payers of New Albany and that the elected officials are the leaders of the city and as the leaders they do not need a raise.

Mr. Coffey stated that they should consider the fact that this is a full-time job for most of the elected officials, but not for the council.

Mrs. Crump said she would have to agree with Mr. Coffey and that she knows that this last year has been hard on the people of New Albany, but that it has been hard on everyone, including the elected officials.

Mr. Price stated that the City Clerk makes \$1100 every two weeks and he would be happy with that because it is good money to him. He didn't think a raise was necessary.

Mrs. Crump stated the she wouldn't do the job for that amount.

G-06-20 An Ordinance Of The City Of New Albany,
Indiana, Authorizing The Issuance Of Its
Capital Development Tourism Fund Revenue Bond,
Series 2006; Authorizing The Solicitation Of
Competitive Bids For The Purchase Of The Bond;
Authorizing The Execution And Delivery On Behalf
Of The City Of A Pledge Agreement Between The
City And The Clark-Floyd Counties Convention And
Tourism Bureau, In Order To Provide Security And
A Source Of Payment For The Bond; And Taking
Other Related Action.

Mr. Seabrook wanted to know what the bill was about and what it was for.

Mr. Rosenbarger stated that Mr. Gibson explained that the city will have no financial obligation toward this project.

Mr. Seabrook explained that he would still like to know what it is for and suggested it be tabled if no one had any answers.

Mayor Garner stated the exhibit A explains what it is for.

Mr. Price asked how they can vote for a proposal that is full of blank lines.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the bonding for this project.

Mr. Seabrook moved for the first reading of G-06-20 by title only, Mr. Messer second, the bill was passed with six aye votes from Mr. Schmidt, Mrs. Crump, Mr. Blevins, Mr. Messer, Mr. Seabrook, and Mr. Gahan, two nay votes from Mr. Kochert and Mr. Price, and one abstention from Mr. Coffey.

There being no further business before the council, the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Jeff Gahan, President
Common Council, City of New Albany

ATTEST: _____
Marcey Wisman, City Clerk

